

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7645

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE, SCCE, SENV, NATO
SUBJ: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENT MEETING SEPT 5,
1977

REF: GENEVA 7618
1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL WE DISCUSSED WITH ECE SECRETARIAT
(STILLMAN) SECRETARIAT'S VIEWS ON OUTCOME OF SEPTEMBER 19-21
MEETING OF SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (SAEP).
STILLMAN STRESSED THAT CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION NORWEGIANS WERE GIVING,
SECRETARIAT IS NOT PUSHING TO HAVE TASK FORCES ESTABLISHED
TO ANALYSE POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. ALTHOUGH
ECE EXEC SEC STANOVNIK DID TOSS OUT IDEA OF TASK FORCES AT
WESTERN CAUCUS LUNCHEON MEETING IN MAY; HE HAS NOT PUSHED IT SINCE
THEN. IF GOVERNMENTS AT SAEP MEETING WANT TO ESTABLISH TASK
FORCES TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER TECHNICAL ELABORATION OF TOPICS AND
ADD DETAILS TO REPORT, SECRETARIAT WOULD WELCOME THIS MOVE, BUT
THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO PREPARE THEIR REPORT WITHOUT THIS
ASSISTANCE. SECRETARIAT TAKES POSITION THAT REPLY TO
STANOVNIK'S LETTER FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS CONSTITUTES
CONSULTATION AND CONVENING OF SAEP MEETING CONSTITUTES
ASSISTANCE FROM SAEP REQUIRED IN RESOLUTION XXXII(1).
STILLMAN DID NOTE THAT BISHOP, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN
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SETTLEMENTS DIVISION, WOULD LIKE TO SEE TASK FORCES
ESTABLISHED, BUT THIS IS NOT ORGANIZATION'S OFFICIAL VIEW.

2. SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED TO STANOVNIK THEIR RELUCTANCE
TO HAVE TASK FORCES ESTABLISHED BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT
WEST MAY BE USING THEM FOR DELAYING TACTICS.

3. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO BESIDES
THE NORWEGIANS SUPPORT THE IDEA OF HAVING TASK FORCES,
BUT WE STILL BELIEVE WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE SOME VIEWS ON
THE MATTER AS THE NORWEGIANS ARE CONTINUING TO PUSH IT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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